



Office of Children and Family Services

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Panel

CCWIS Webinar Monthly Updates December 8, 2021

Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System

Strengthening CONNECTIONS for caseworkers, children, and families

December 13, 2021

Agenda

- ❖ CCWIS Updates
- ❖ CONNECTIONS Build 3 2021
- ❖ SCR Reform Discussion
- ❖ Progress Note Narratives – Format Discussion

CCWIS Updates

- **2021 AAPDU, Data Quality Plan, and first Biennial Data Quality Review**
 - Approved by feds 7/15/21
 - OCFS DW is now part of our CCWIS
 - **Work on 2022 AAPDU etc will begin by end of Jan.**
- **New IT resources for data exchange work received DOB approval!**
 - 1 BA (interviews held in Nov; no good candidates; rebid after holidays)
 - 1 Tester (interviews held in Nov; offers made 1st week Dec)
 - 2nd Tester position requested; with DOB
 - 1 Developer/Architect
 - 1 Developer
 - 1 DW Developer (hired mid-Nov)



CCWIS Updates (cont'd)

- **Data Exchange work**

- Scope reminder:
 - Local systems (LDSS and VA) – APIs for bidirectional data exchanges to reduce duplicate data entry; real-time to keep systems in sync
 - Other state systems – BICS/IES for financial data; others as practicable
 - Bulk/batch one-way data feeds are not considered a “CCWIS solution” but will be considered (ODS existing data feeds; progress note narratives bulk request)
- Will start with Resource Mgmt (FAD) API; also Progress Note Narrative bulk export

- **3rd Party Software Considerations**

- Foster Parent Recruitment/Licensing Software
 - NYC ACS piloting Binti; some other counties as well
 - Exploring statewide pilot



CONNECTIONS Build 3 2021

- Build 3 2021 to be deployed Friday 12/10/21
 - **SCR Reform system changes**
 - Fair Preponderance language in CONNECTIONS and AIMS Notice of Existence and Notice of Indication letters
 - Addition of Article 10 proceedings questions
 - New Unfounded Letters
 - New value for Substantiated Not R&R
 - **Family First modifications**
 - Facility Type and Program Type name changes from SILP to Supervised Setting Programs
 - VA and LDSS* staff can now open and maintain Supervised Setting Programs
 - *NOTE that while LDSS's can create SSPs, there is currently no mechanism for them to pay for them until BICS changes are instituted; it may be desirable for VAs to create SSPs until further notice.
 - **Uploads**
 - New subcategory under CARA for Plan of Safe Care



- **Build 1 2022 (tentatively 3/16/2022)**
 - FFPSA QRTP long stayer review codes
 - FFPSA long stay care day clock reminders
 - FFPSA renaming Family First exception programs
 - Uploads – warning when file is uploaded to a different stage
 - Uploads – better flagging where files are located
 - Uploads – allow Uploads functionality via Modify path
 - Intake – automated indicator when FAR eligible
 - Intake – add Shelter question to Intake stage checklist for fatalities



SCR Reform Discussion

Slides taken from the B3 2021 PPT from the CONNX Implementation Team



Change in CPS Standard of Evidence

Effective 1/1/22, the standard of evidence for an indication in CPS Investigations changes from “***some credible evidence***” to “***a fair preponderance of evidence.***”

This will impact:

- Investigation Consolidations
- Language in CPS letters

SCR Reform Discussion

Slides taken from the B3 2021 PPT from the CONNX Implementation Team



Consolidating Investigations

This means CPS reports received prior to 1/1/22 have a DIFFERENT standard of evidence and CANNOT be consolidated with those received AFTER 1/1/22

- This is a short-term issue since going forward, all reports will soon fall under the same standard of evidence
- Caseworkers should issue determinations and close any completed stages prior to 1/1/22 in order to avoid conflicting standards of evidence in concurrent investigations

SCR Reform Discussion

Slides taken from the B3 2021 PPT from the CONNX Implementation Team



Consolidating Investigations - Continued

Investigations or FAR Stages can only be consolidated if:

- The **Subsequent** INV/FAR is less than **6** days old
- The **Initial** INV/FAR is less than **53** days old at the time the subsequent is received.

This means February 28, 2022 will be the last possible day there can be a conflict in the standard of evidence for consolidation.

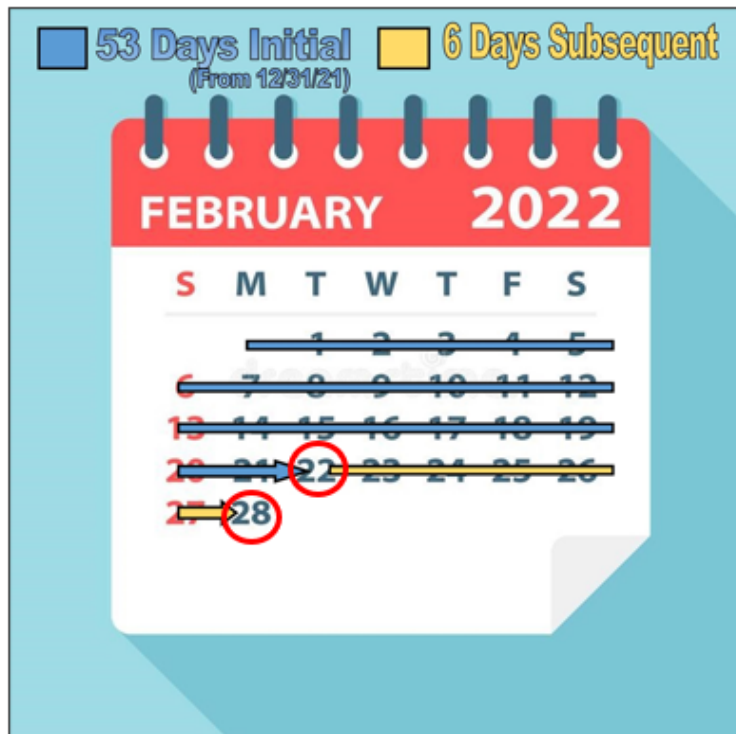
- If an INV / FAR is received December 31, 2021, that stage will reach 53 days in age on 02/22/22, and a subsequent received that day will reach 6 days in age on 02/28/22.

SCR Reform Discussion

Slides taken from the B3 2021 PPT from the CONNX Implementation Team



Consolidating Investigations - Continued



- From 12/31/21 to 2/22/22 is 53 days
- A subsequent report received on 2/22/22 is eligible for consolidation within 6 days = until 2/28/22

SCR Reform Discussion

Slides taken from the B3 2021 PPT from the CONNX Implementation Team



Change to “Fair Preponderance” Language

As a result of the change in the standard of evidence, language is changing in the following:

- Notice of Existence letters
 - Notice of Indication letters
 - Unfounded Letter (generated and mailed by the SCR)
-
- If the Intake date is **prior to 1/1/22**, the old version of the letters will be generated, reflecting the “**some credible evidence**” standard.
 - If the Intake date is **on or after 1/1/22**, the new version of the letters will be generated, reflecting the “**a fair preponderance of evidence**” standard.

SCR Reform Discussion

Slides taken from the B3 2021 PPT from the CONNX Implementation Team



SCR Reform - New Article 10 Fields

When an allegation is marked as substantiated, a new field, “Has an Article 10 been Filed?” displays. This field is **required** in order to save the substantiation on either individual or multiselected allegations.

A screenshot of a web-based form titled "Allegations Detail". The form contains several fields: "Stage Recorded:" with a value of "INT"; "MA/AB Child:" with a dropdown menu; "Allegation:" with a dropdown menu showing "Inadequate Guardianship"; "Alleged Subject:" with a dropdown menu; "Subject's Function in Facility:" with a dropdown menu; and "Unsubstantiated/Substantiated:" with a dropdown menu showing "Substantiated". Below these is a section titled "Additional Information" containing "Date/Time of Incident:" with a date/time picker and an "Approx" checkbox, and "Setting of Abuse/Maltreatment:" with a dropdown menu. A new field, "Has an Article 10 been Filed?", is highlighted with a red rectangular box. This field is a dropdown menu with a red asterisk indicating it is required. At the bottom right of the form are three buttons: "Save & Close", "Save", and "Reset".

SCR Reform Discussion

Slides taken from the B3 2021 PPT from the CONNX Implementation Team



SCR Reform - New Article 10 Fields - Continued

If answer selected in the “Has an Article 10 been Filed?” field is Yes”, a second question, “Resolution of Article 10 Filing” displays and is also required to save the substantiation in either individual or multiselected allegations.

A screenshot of a web-based form titled "Allegations Detail". The form has two main sections: "Allegations Detail" and "Additional Information". In the "Allegations Detail" section, there are several dropdown menus: "Stage Recorded:" (set to "INT"), "MA/AB Child:", "Allegation:" (set to "Inadequate Guardianship"), "Alleged Subject:", "Subject's Function in Facility:", and "Unsubstantiated/Substantiated" (set to "Substantiated"). In the "Additional Information" section, there are two fields: "Date/Time of Incident:" (set to "11/02/2021 12:00 AM" with an "Approx" checkbox) and "Setting of Abuse/Maltreatment:" (set to "In Home"). To the right of these fields, there is a section for "Has an Article 10 been Filed?" (set to "Yes") and "Resolution of Article 10 Filing:". The "Resolution of Article 10 Filing:" dropdown menu is open, showing a list of options: "Pending", "Withdrawn with Prejudice", "Withdrawn without Prejudice", "Finding of Abuse or Maltreatment Made", "Dismissed", "ACOD", and "Suspended Judgment". A red rectangular box highlights the "Has an Article 10 been Filed?" and "Resolution of Article 10 Filing:" fields. A "Reset" button is located at the bottom right of the form.

SCR Reform Discussion

Slides taken from the B3 2021 PPT from the CONNX Implementation Team



SCR Reform - New Article 10 Fields - Continued

To allow LDSS to update Article 10 information after the indicated CPS stage is closed, these new fields are also available in Local Data Maintenance, and through an open ARI stage.

- Making any allegation changes through LDM requires an addendum to the Investigation Conclusion narrative. This addendum is added at the bottom of the narrative below the “unsubstantiated allegations” section, regardless if it is a substantiated investigation or not.

SCR Reform Discussion

Slides taken from the B3 2021 PPT from the CONNX Implementation Team



SCR Reform - New Article 10 Fields - Continued

To facilitate access to the open ARI stage, a new, navigable To-Do will be created whenever an ARI stage is opened and sent to:

- the historical primary worker of the INV stage **and**
- the historical primary worker's supervisor.

Workload To-Dos Uploads									
From: <input type="text"/>		To: 12/23/2021		<input type="button" value="Search"/>		refresh list			
<input type="checkbox"/>		Type	Status	Date	Case Name	Stage ID	Stage Name	Description	Created By
<input type="checkbox"/>	Navigate	T	NEW	11/04/2021	Smith, Natalie	33359466	Smith, Natalie	Article 10 Information Required	System
<input type="checkbox"/>	Navigate	T	NEW	11/04/2021	Gonzales, Maria	33359467	Gonzales, Maria	Article 10 Information Required	System

SCR Reform Discussion

Slides taken from the B3 2021 PPT from the CONNX Implementation Team



SCR Reform - New Article 10 Fields - Continued

Article 10 information will also be displayed on the following reports:

- Investigation Summary Report
- Stage Summary Report
- A new CONNECTIONS Tip Sheet, *Adding Article 10 Information in CONNECTIONS* will be released soon.

SCR Reform Discussion

Resources for SCR Reform Legislation:

Administrative Directives:

- 21-OCFS-ADM-26 Change in Standard of Evidence for Child Protective Services Investigations
https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/policies/external/ocfs_2021/ADM/21-OCFS-ADM-26.pdf
- *Coming soon:* ADM on Changes to Administrative Appeals Challenging Indicated Reports of Child Abuse or Maltreatment
- *Coming soon:* ADM or LCM on Eight (8) Year Not R&R

Tip Sheet:

- *Documenting Article 10 Information In CONNECTIONS*
Available in CONNECTIONS Helpful Info/document search, and CONNECTIONS web page: [Job Aides - CONNECTIONS - OCFS | intranet \(ny.gov\)](#)

SCR Reform Discussion

Resources for SCR Reform Legislation (cont'd):

Mandated Training:

- Change in the Standard of Evidence for Child Protective Services Investigation Determinations - HSLC

As a result of implementation of SCR Reform legislation, the legal standard of evidence necessary for CPS to indicate a report of alleged child abuse or maltreatment changes for reports that are accepted by the SCR on or after January 1, 2022. OCFS issued 21-OCFS-ADM-26 as guidance on this important topic. Among other things, this ADM directs all local department of social services (LDSS) staff that may be involved in a determination to indicate a report of alleged child abuse or maltreatment to take this web-based training on the new required standard of evidence, available on HSLC.



Progress Note Narratives – Format Discussion

Problem: Inability to export Progress Note Narratives due to current format

- Requirement for Rich Text allows users to copy/paste all kinds of tables, templates, etc into their note narrative.
- Notes are stored as binary compressed Word files.
- These cannot be read, searched, or exported without being uncompressed.
- The current notes already cause issues when shared with other OCFS systems (FHARM) due to the copy/pasted formatting.

Proposal: Change Progress Note Narratives to Plain Text

- Uploads feature can now be used for tables/templates as SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS.
- Proposal drafted and currently under internal OCFS review.
- Will share more widely after internal review is complete.





Ideas, suggestions, questions, general feedback:
Email us!

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